

Who Gets the Blessing?

Genesis 25-27

A. The Early History of Jacob and Esau. Genesis 25:24-34

1. Review: What did God predict would happen to Rebekah's twin sons? (25:23)

2. Esau was born first. How would you describe him? (25:25) _____

3. What was Jacob doing when he emerged from his mother's womb? (25:26) _____

4. What was Esau good at? (25:27) _____
5. How would you describe Jacob? (25:27) _____
6. Whom did Isaac love, and why? (25:28) _____
7. Whom did Rebekah love? (25:28) _____
8. This sounds like trouble. What happens in a family when one child or the other is a favorite? _____

9. How did Jacob acquire the birthright ¹ that belonged to the oldest son? (25:29-34)

10. How does the writer of Hebrews describe Esau? (Heb. 12:16-17) _____

11. Jacob seems to have had a much greater appreciation for spiritual realities, and for obtaining God's blessing than Esau did. But Jacob was also a schemer. This would come back to haunt him in his later life.

¹ Gen. 25:31-34 - birthright: The "birthright" was the privilege of being chief of the tribe and head of the family (27:29). In Isaac's family, it entitled the bearer to the blessing of Yahweh's promise (27:4, 27-29), which included the possession of Canaan and covenant fellowship with God (28:4). It also included a double portion of the inheritance (Deut. 21:17), and the privilege of being the priest (spiritual leader) of the family. (Nahum Sarna, Understanding Genesis, p. 185.)

B. A Little More Background (Selected passages in Genesis 26)

1. Because Isaac was the promised son of Abraham, God blessed him. In what way did God bless him? (Gen. 26:12-14) _____

2. What did God tell Isaac one night at Beersheba? (Gen. 26:23-24) _____

3. When Esau was forty years old he married two women. What was the reaction of his parents? (Gen. 26:34-35) _____

C. Jacob Plots to Steal the Blessing of Abraham that Isaac Planned to Give to his brother, Esau. (Genesis 27)**1. Isaac's ungodly plan. Gen. 27:1-4**

- a. What was Isaac's physical condition at this time? (Gen. 27:1) _____
- b. What caused Isaac to take this step? (Gen. 27:2) _____
- c. What did he ask Esau to do? (Gen. 27:3-4) _____
- d. What did he plan to do? (Gen. 27:4) _____
- e. Isaac planned to give the Blessing of Abraham to his son Esau. But what had God said would happen? (Gen. 25:23) _____

2. Rebekah's plan to detour Isaac's blessing to Jacob instead of to Esau. (Gen. 27:5-17)

- a. Rebekah told Jacob what she had overheard. What was it? (Gen. 27:5-7)

- b. What was Rebekah's sneaky plan to counteract this blessing of Esau? (Gen. 27:8-10)

- c. Jacob was nervous about doing this. Why? (Gen. 27:11-12) _____

- d. How did Rebekah answer him? (Gen. 27:13) _____

- e. What did Rebekah do with the goats Jacob brought her? (Gen. 27:14) _____

f. How did Rebekah make Jacob as much like Esau as she could?

1) (Gen. 27:15) _____

2) (Gen. 27:16) _____

g. Then she gave the savory food and bread to Jacob and he took it. (Gen. 27:17)

3. Deceived Isaac gives the Blessing of the Covenant to Jacob instead of to Esau. (Gen. 27:18-29)

a. What did Jacob tell his blind father? (Gen. 27:18-19) _____

b. Isaac was surprised that "Esau" had returned so quickly with his meal. How did Jacob explain it? (Gen. 27:20) _____

c. What was it that fooled Isaac into thinking Jacob was actually Esau? (Gen. 27:21-23) _____

d. Isaac had one final question. How did Jacob answer it? (Gen. 27:24)

e. Isaac enjoyed his son's meal, and was prepared to bless him. (Gen. 27:25-26).

f. Isaac gave Jacob, whom he thought was Esau, quite a blessing.

1) His smell was like the smell of a field which God has _____ (27)

2) "May God give you heaven's _____ (28)

3) "and earth's richness – abundance of _____ and new _____ (28)

4) "May nations _____ you and peoples _____ to you (29)

5) "Be _____ over your brothers, and may the sons of your mother _____ to you." (29)

6) "May those who _____ you be _____" (29)

7) And those who _____ you be _____." (29)

4. Enraged Esau receives a Secondary Blessing from his Father, Isaac. (Gen. 27:30-41)

a. What happened after Jacob had left his father's presence? (Gen. 27:30-31)

- b. What was Isaac's question? (Gen. 27:32) _____? What was Esau's response? _____
- c. What was Isaac's physical reaction? (Gen. 27:33) _____
- d. What did Isaac reveal to Esau? (Gen. 27:33) _____

- e. What was Esau's bitter plea? (Gen. 27:34) _____
- f. How did Isaac respond? (Gen. 27:35) _____

- g. How did Esau respond? "This is the second time he has taken advantage of me: He took my _____ and now he's taken my _____!" (36)
- h. Esau asked for a blessing any way. (Gen. 27:36)
- i. But Isaac had given Jacob the best. (Gen. 27:37)
- j. Esau wept for another blessing (Gen. 27:38) So Isaac blessed him as follows:
- 1) "Your dwelling will be _____ from the earth's richness" (39)
 - 2) "and away from the _____ of heaven" (39)
 - 3) "You will live by the _____" (40)
 - 4) "And you will _____ your brother." (40)
 - 5) "But when you grow restless, you will throw his _____ from off your _____." (40)
- k. Esau was bitter and held a grudge. What did he plan to do? (Gen. 27:41)

D. Perspective

1. What stands out most to you about Genesis 27? _____
2. How would you evaluate this family? _____
3. What are things to avoid in your own family now and later, when you get married? _____

4. Jacob was a schemer. But he did have some good points. What are they? _____
